SOME

Conſiderations:

Humbly Offered to Demonſtrate

How prejudicial it would be to the Engliſh *Plantations, Revenues of the Crown, the Navigation and general Good of this Kingdom, that the ſole Trade for Negroes ſhould be granted to a Company with a Joynt-Stock excluſive to all others.*

THe great and unſpeakable Advantage the *Weſt-India* Plantations are to *England*, is ſo well known, that it needs no demonſtration to prove it. The only thing Neceſſary, is to endeavour to improve and increaſe this mighty advantageous Trade, by ſecuring them from the Inſults of their Enemies, and enabling them to make larger quantities of the Commodities of thoſe Colonies.

Now the means moſt conducive thereunto will be to make the Trade to *Affrica* open and free for all the Native Subjects of *England*, which Trade for Slaves is chiefly from *Acra* to *Angola*, and contains about 1200 Miles Sea-coſt, in which extent the preſent *Affrican* Company have neither Fort, Caſtle, nor Factory; ſo that they have not the leaſt colour for a Pretence to an excluſive Right of Trade into thoſe Parts.

It is well known, that the Riches of the Plantations conſiſts in Slaves chiefly, by whoſe ſtrength and labour all their Commodities, as Tobacco, Sugar, Cotton, Indigo, Ginger, *&c.* are produced; and the more Slaves thoſe Plantations are ſupplyed with, the more Commodities are made, and the ſtronger they are to defend themſelves againſt any Inſults. Neither can there be any more danger of being over-ſtockt with Negroes, than there is that too much Tobacco, Sugar, *&c.* ſhould be ſent to *England*; for it is a plain conſequence, the more Negroes the more Goods will be produced, the more Goods the more Cuſtom paid, and all thoſe Commodities rendered here at home ſo cheap as will enable this Nation to ſend them abroad cheap alſo, to the great diſcouraging of the Plantation-Trade of all other Nations. Wherefore it is very plain, that a large ſupply of Negroes will not only bring great Riches to this Kingdom, but will alſo greatly Increaſe our Navigation.

Whereas on the contrary, ſhould the *Affrican* Trade be incloſed, and confin'd to the Wills and Powers of a Company, the conſequence would prove as fatal to the Plantations as a Power given to one Perſon in *England* to ſupply the Gardners with Servants, and the Farmers and Carriers

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with Horſes: It is not to be doubted that the one would be conſtrained to pay yearly for his Servants as much as his Years product would amount to, and the other for his Team as much as the Rent of his Farm, which would prove great Diſcouragements to their Labour and Induſtry. This may we reaſonably ſuppoſe would be the Caſe of the Planters in the *Weſt-Indies*, were there but one Perſon that muſt ſupply them with Slaves, they being ſo extreamly Neceſſary, that it is impoſſible to live without them, every Man being rich or poor according to his Stock in Slaves. A Man that may be Proprietor of 10000 Acres of Land, would ſtill be poor had he no ſtock of Negroes to employ upon it.

It might be fairly Objected, That the preſent *Affrican* Company have carryed on their Trade but very imperfectly as to their own Advantage, (notwithſtanding that was all the Deſign they aimed at) as may be plainly proved from the Care they have taken to ſupply all the Plantations, it being very well known that they have not for theſe 20 Years or more ſent one Ships-loading of Negroes to *Virginia* nor *Maryland*, which are two very large Countreys, and capable of making twice as much Tobacco as they now do, were they but well ſupplyed with Negroes.

Every Negro that is ſent into thoſe Plantations, makes as much Tobacco yearly as pays from 30 *l.* to 40 *l.* Sterl. Cuſtom, but the Company think that is not material to their Stock: They underſtand the People are generally poor, and therefore will not venture to truſt them; whereas at the ſame time private Men have, (tho' with the hazard of being ſeized by the Companies Agents) and had it not been for that Supply thoſe Countries had been in a much worſe Condition than at preſent they are.

To further demonſtrate what before is hinted at, that the Company have no Forts, Caſtles nor Factories from *Acra* to *Angola*, nor do they ſuppoſe them neceſſary to carry on the Slave-Trade, is plainly proved from their own Practice and Management of that Trade, for when they deſign a Ship to trade for Slaves, they put a Lee-ward Cargo (as they term it) on board the Ship, and give the Maſter or the chief Officer of the Ship full power to diſpoſe, barter and ſell the ſaid Cargo for their Accounts, allowing them a Commiſſion of 4 *per Cent.* for diſpoſing of the ſaid Cargo, taking on board the Negroes, and delivering them to their Factors in the Plantations, who have uſually been the Governours of thoſe Places, who have diſpoſed of the Negroes not always to the poor Planters liking, but neceſſity hath no law, ſo muſt ſubmit to the Will and Pleaſure of their Superiours.

Now this great and growing Evil can only be prevented by permitting more Sellers of Negroes than one, wherefore ſince it is evidently demonſtrable, that it is no charge to carry on and manage the Slave-Trade, and of what great Concern it is to encourage and ſupport the *Engliſh* Plantations, whereby the Navigation of the Kingdom, Revennues of the Crown, and the General Good of this Narion is ſo much advanced, therefore it is humbly hoped that the Trade from *Acra* to *Angola* incluſive may be henceforth judged and allowed to be free and open for all the Subjects of this Kingdom.

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